

JUN 10 1964

exto

Alpha 66 Is Chanting End Of Castro Regime in '64

CPYRGHT

By TOM COLLINS and
JOE ALVAREZ

Of the World Telegram Staff

The young, combat-ready members of Alpha 66 chant this slogan:

**Cubans
In
N. Y.**

"Acabamos con Castro en sesenta y cuarto." (We're finished with Castro in '64.)

The rhyme may be leaden, but the meaning for Alpha is golden.

Alpha 66 is one of the many groups active among the 200,000 Cuban exiles in the New York area. It shares office space with other anti-Castro groups in 103 W. 74th St.

Though smaller than most of the exile organizations, it commands the biggest headlines.

Daring Raids

Its leaders make good newscopy, partly with a busy mimeograph machine, but mostly with daring raids on Cuba. They claim to have made five dangerous missions to Cuba.

Alpha 66 is said to be the creature of the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA denies it, and so does Alpha.

Ovidio Fleitas, a member who works in a New York bank, said most of the group's 500 active members are veteran revolutionaries. First, he said, they "fought with the Fidelistas in the mountains against the dictator Fulgencio Batista." Later, he said, they became "disillusioned with Castro and fought him in the ground."



World Telegram Photo

Pinpointing raids made on Cuba are Alpha 66 leaders Humberto Arguelles, left, and Armando Fleitas.

It is these long years of fighting, with most of the Alpha-ites starting out as teen-agers, that give the group its battle-hardened look.

Started With 66

Alpha is the beginning, from the first letter of the Greek alphabet. It symbolizes the start of the group's struggle against Castro, when 66 members got together two years ago.

Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet, and, with a mixture of good public relations, considerable optimism and what some persons call a strong measure of self-delusion, Alpha has labeled its latest anti-Castro operation "Omega is the final execu-

tion of all our plans, the end of Castroism," said an Alpha spokesman, Umberto Arguelles.

On 'Moral Walk'

Recently, three Alpha members left New York on a "moral walk" to Miami to dramatize Omega.

"We hope to bring comfort to our members and allies in Cuba," Arguelles said. "And when the three get to Miami, they will try to get some unification of

the many Cuban groups fighting Castro."

The three who left are: Rafael Fraga, 29, 226 W. 78th St.; Manuel Garcia, 25, 23 W. 69th St., and Jesus Pineda, 24, 23 W. 79th St.

Arguelles said these men will make no attempt to slip out of the country and into Cuba "to infiltrate, to commit acts of sabotage."

However, one of the three said he intends "to find a place in the hills with other Alpha men and wage guerril-

Continued